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BCTGM *News*

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Voices in Unity 
STRENGTH in Solidarity



THE PRESIDENT'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS

TO THE 38TH CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION



Brothers and Sisters, what a difference four years and new political leadership in Washington can make for working families and our future.



When we held our Convention four years ago, the future for working people and the labor movement was ominous.

We were confronting the sixth year of a relentless assault by arrogant, anti-worker bureaucrats, who used their power to harass and weaken unions—and to maximize the influence and profits of corporations and to shift the wealth of this country even further from the middle class to the privileged class.

This year we come together in an environment that stands in stark contrast to those dark days. Today—despite opposition from the minority party—our national political leaders are utilizing the power of government to advance the common good and improve the quality of life for all of our citizens.

Never before in our lifetime has the heart, soul and character of this nation's governmental leadership been transformed so dramatically by a single election. And never before have we seen such determined effort to ensure the failure of the most popular President since John F. Kennedy.

As you walked into the Hall this morning you saw prominently displayed the theme of our Convention, "Voices in Unity...Strength in Solidarity". This theme was selected because of fundamental and historic changes that have taken place in this country—and the successes our Union has accomplished over the past four years, were achieved only through the unity in our voices and the strength of our solidarity.

Voices in Unity...Strength in Solidarity enabled us to endure a federal government run by people completely subservient to corporate bosses. On Election Day 2008, the voices of working men and women across this country spoke loudly, clearly and in unity. In 2008, working men and women in this country came together in the strongest show of political solidarity ever seen. Brothers and sisters, those millions of Voices in Unity and that powerful Strength in Solidarity changed

America forever and sent a bright beacon of hope around the world.

Today, against the most vile opposition, we have an Administration in Washington that sides with working people over the captains of industry. We have an Administration that sides with the citizens of this country over the powerful special interests that had their way in Washington for eight long years.

Today, against the most vile opposition, we have a President who works hard to improve the lives of those in society who have the least; those who are the most vulnerable; those who have been shut out and beaten down by the people who were supposed to be representing their interests. A President who forthrightly says, "You cannot have a strong middle class, without a strong labor movement."

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Four years ago, we had a Department of Labor led by a Labor Secretary who took her orders from



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Karl Rove; a Labor Department staffed from top to bottom with individuals right out of the employer ranks and the right-to-work-for-less committee, who were put in place for one purpose only—to protect and enable corporations in their never-ending quest for more power and profits.

Today we have a Labor Department that has been rescued from the clutches of big business; a Labor Department led by a Secretary of Labor who's proud of her union background and dedicated to vigorous enforcement of the laws that govern the workplace.

When she took office, Secretary Solis sent a clear and forceful message when she announced, "There's a new sheriff in town." She has surrounded herself with qualified professionals who actually believe in the mission of the agency—to protect the rights and interests of men and women in the workplace—much to the chagrin of corporate America, including each and every one of your companies.

HEALTH CARE

Four years ago, our health care policy in this country was being written by the insurance and pharmaceutical companies whose obscene profits were earned off the backs of the neediest and weakest in our society.

Today, after a century of struggle, health care is a right for all Americans. Every citizen of this country will have medical services without having to go bankrupt or without food, clothing or shelter in order to receive care.

Today, because of a determined and principled President and a revitalized labor movement, the United States finally stands proudly with the rest of the world's industrialized nations, including Canada, in ensuring health care security for its people.

We know this health care law is not a perfect law. Compromises had to be made along the way to appease lawmakers that represent the health care industry in order to try to achieve bipartisanship, which never materialized. Throughout the long, difficult process, the labor movement was working hard to strengthen the bill.

And we know that the labor movement will lead the way in improving health care reform over time—just as our predecessors did years ago with Social Security, Medicare and the Civil Rights movement. And just as the Canadian labor movement has done with its universal health care system.

But Brothers and Sisters, even with its shortcomings, even without a public option, the health care reform law is a giant step forward on the path to greater social and economic justice for the American people.

WALL STREET

At the time of our last Convention, the wizards of Wall Street and the barons of banking were already waist deep in reckless and corrupt activities that would soon destroy millions of jobs, cripple thousands of communities, ruin countless lives and leave our economy on the verge of collapse. Greed knows no limits.

These "thieves" were making hundreds of millions of dollars by betting against their own investors. They were literally cheering as the housing market was collapsing because it meant they would make billions more in profits and bonuses. They were robbing the American people blind and it was all legal.

This shameless, immoral behavior by the people controlling the financial center of the world was allowed to take place because the regulations governing the banks and insurance companies had been gutted. And the people responsible for enforcing what little regulation remained turned a blind eye to the corruption.

Today, these thieves are being hauled before congressional committees to testify because the leaders of this Congress are willing to do their job of looking out for the citizens of this country.

Today, the financial industry has the broadest and toughest regulations in 80 years because we have a President who has the courage to take on the richest and most powerful interests in Washington, including the politicians who are owned by Wall Street.

We know that tough regulation and vigilant oversight are crucial to protect the public. Canada largely avoided the global housing and banking calamity because of a robust regulatory environment and strict enforcement of its laws.

HELL NO

This historic and monumental change in the direction of our country has not come easily. Since the day he took office, every initiative President Obama has undertaken—to move our country





...employers respect the proud unity and solidarity of the BCTGM.

forward, to fix a broken economy, and improve the lives and health of our citizens—has been met with knee-jerk, politically-motivated opposition by the Party of NO, or more accurately as some of them brag, the Party of HELL NO.

The party of HELL NO has just not been able to accept the outcome of the 2008 elections. They are desperate to return to the time when they hung on to power, influence, and a steady flow of enormous campaign contributions, by giving corporations everything they wanted, no questions asked.

Corporate bosses wanted tax breaks for the largest corporations and the wealthiest Americans. They got it. They wanted the elimination of government regulations—even those that protect people's lives and the public health. They got it. They wanted hack cronies right out of Goldman Sachs regulating Wall Street and the big banks. They got it. They wanted to put in charge of OSHA a union-busting attorney, whose greatest expertise was in helping companies avoid compliance with workplace safety and health laws. They got it. They wanted a former coal company executive put in charge of mine safety. They got it. They wanted war profiteers like Halliburton to get billions of dollars worth of no-bid contracts. They got it. They wanted trade bills and labor policies written by the Chamber of Commerce and National Right-to-Work Committee. They got it. They wanted energy policy written by the oil companies. They got it. And today the United States is confronting the greatest environmental disaster in our history!

For eight years, they rode the special interest gravy train, gorging themselves like hogs at the financial trough, while working men and women lost their jobs, lost their homes and struggled just to get by from day to day on less and less.

ROADBLOCKS

Brothers and Sisters, the Party of HELL NO and their benefactors in the corporate world are desperate to get back on that gravy train. And the only way they can possibly make this happen is to tear down President Obama and put up roadblocks to everything he is trying to accomplish for this country. And the

party of HELL NO and hate radio and hate television offer no solutions, except more tax breaks for the wealthy and less regulation on corporations. Brothers and Sisters, a policy of HELL NO is not a substitute for governing.

It doesn't put people back to work. It doesn't help families keep their homes, or put food on the table, or clothes on the kids' backs. It doesn't improve the quality of public education for our young people, or make college more affordable for working families. It doesn't do anything to make life better for good, hard-working citizens, who just want a fair shot at a decent life for themselves and their families.

PHONY PATRIOTS

You see, these are the phony patriots, who claim they care about this country but support policies that allow corporations to shift billions of dollars in profits to foreign banks to avoid paying taxes; the phony patriots who support tax breaks for companies that move industrial production and good jobs from North America to low-wage countries around the world; the phony patriots who rail about taxpayer bailouts of Wall Street and the big banks while they are in Washington, but then sneak up to New York City and go on bended knee to the kingpins of the financial industry, promising to block real financial regulation in return for millions more in campaign contributions; the phony patriots who say they care



about the health of the American people, then fight health care reform for over a year with despicable lies and distortions, because they are bought and paid for by the health insurance industry; the phony patriots who give speeches at Tea Party rallies about protecting people's rights, but who for eight years enabled the Bush/Cheney "Injustice Department" to shred the Constitution and ride roughshod over our civil liberties.

True patriots are devoted to the well-being of their fellow citizens and their country. Brothers and sisters, we are here to tell these phony patriots and the Party of HELL NO and those Democrats who have turned their backs on the people who elected them, that change is here to stay. We worked too hard to get here.

We say good riddance to the gravy train for corporate thieves and their lackeys in government. America is moving forward! The labor movement has only just begun to lead a great economic and social turnaround. Our fight continues—we cannot falter—we cannot quit. There is so much more to be done!

LABOR LAW

Labor laws in the United States and Canada must be reformed to give workers an honest chance to join a union and enjoy the benefits of collective bargaining.

Brothers and Sisters, we will not be satisfied until the Employee Free Choice Act takes its rightful place as a cornerstone of a more just and fair society.

And while some of our Brothers and Sisters in Canada enjoy decent labor laws, many of our members work in provinces which have labor laws that are as bad as what we have in this country. That has to change!

We will not be satisfied so long as the insidious new breed of employer—hedge funds and private equity firms—can walk in, take over companies like Stella D'oro and Wendy's, destroy what has been built for decades, ruin countless lives and families, and then walk away unscathed with millions of dollars in their pockets.

We will not be satisfied until corporations no longer get tax benefits for closing our factories and moving production around the globe in search of the cheapest, most vulnerable, most subservient labor they can find.

We will not be satisfied until trade laws start protecting our jobs—not the bloated profits of these unpatriotic companies that couldn't care less about North America's workers.

NAFTA, CAFTA and trade agreements with China and other low-wage countries have crippled the middle class in both the U.S. and Canada to the point where the standard of living for our children and our grandchildren is in great jeopardy.

Our unity and solidarity is not limited to the political and legislative arenas. Our unity and solidarity has served us well for many, many years at the bargaining table and on the organizing battlefields.

Since the last Convention, our local unions, with the able assistance of this International Union, have successfully negotiated a multitude of high-quality contracts with some of the largest, wealthiest and most influential corporations in the U.S. and Canada.

We accomplished this in the most challenging economic climate that we have ever experienced. We accomplished this at a time when corporations were operating with a free hand, virtually unchecked by the government in any way.

Our successes at the bargaining table over the last four years were the result of tireless hard work and preparation. But even more than that, employers have come to respect the proud unity and solidarity of the BCTGM. Employers know that if they take us on, they had better be in for the long haul—because we are!

Our breakthrough organizing victories at Dannon Yogurt in Minster, Ohio and West Jordan, Utah were possible because we enlisted workers and labor organizations from around the world to join together in a powerful show of global solidarity that the company never imagined was possible and was powerless to stop.

Employers who do not bargain in good faith, or conduct business with us in an unlawful, or unacceptable manner, have come to find out that the BCTGM has a very long reach. They have found out that our will to defend our members and organize the unorganized, is unshakable. We know that they will test us again and again. We are always ready!

Brothers and sisters, the BCTGM endures and prospers: Because we know who we are and what we believe in; Because we negotiate contracts that we are proud of; Because we successfully organize in the toughest places, during the toughest times; Because we are effective in the political process, and in the halls of Congress.

Brothers and Sisters, together with our voices in unity, together with the strength of our unbreakable solidarity, together, we will make the most of this new day for our members, for our Union, and for our two great countries.



HURT, DURKEE, THIBODEAU RE-ELECTED

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT FRANK HURT
RE-ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY

The theme of the third day of the Convention, July 30, was “Leading the Way” and was devoted to the election of the BCTGM International Officers.



Reflecting on the day's theme in his remarks, President Hurt said, “Today, we celebrate each of you. As elected representatives of your respected locals at this convention, you are in fact, all leaders of this great union. With leadership comes responsibility. We all have a responsibility to do the best possible job we can do to ensure that this union prospers over the next four years,” said Hurt.

For the election of the International Executive Officers, Hurt called on retired Secretary-Treasurer René Rondou as the Temporary Chair of the Convention. Upon accepting the Temporary Chair position, Rondou delivered brief remarks in both French and English.

“It is a personal privilege and honor to be at this convention. Let me take a moment to express my thanks for inviting me. I can assure you that this is quite an opportunity and honor for me. It is an opportunity to see and talk with longtime friends. Our Union is in a great position today. Our Union is active, aggressive and efficient because of these leaders, and all of you leaders,” Rondou stated.

In accordance with Article IV, Section 3 of the Constitution of the BCTGM International Union, Rondou declared nominations for the office of International President in order.

Local 57 (Columbus, Ohio) Financial Secretary/Business Agent Vester Newsome nominated Frank Hurt for President.

“Frank Hurt has led this union with extraordinary effectiveness during the most challenging times ever experienced by the American labor movement. Over the last four years, the BCTGM withstood the fiercest economic and political storms in our history.

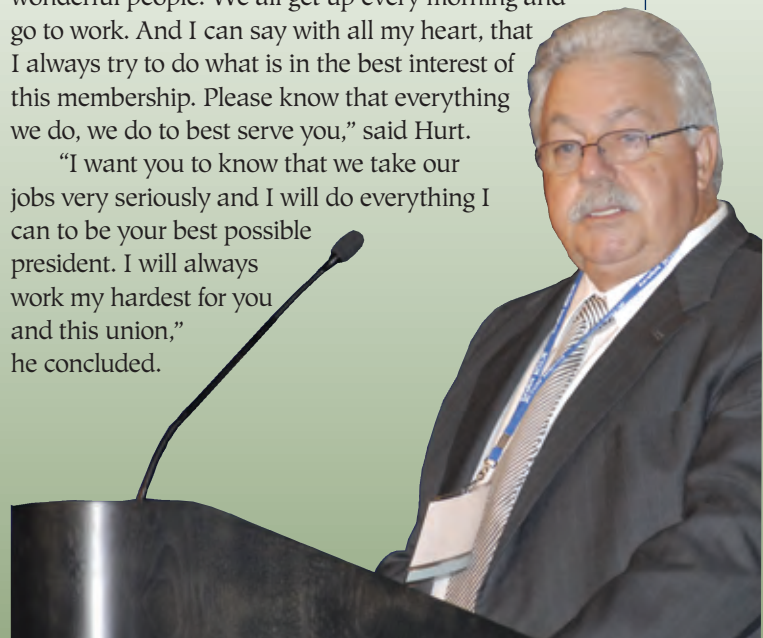
“Our union stands strong today in large measure because of the firm, principled and inspired leadership of Frank Hurt. With Frank Hurt's leadership for the next four years, we are assured that this organization will successfully seize every opportunity and meet every challenge that comes before us in order to improve the quality of life and standard of living of the membership.

“It is with great pride and deep humility that I place in nomination the name of my friend and my Local 57 Brother, Frank Hurt, for President of the BCTGM,” proclaimed Newsome.

Rondou placed the nomination and delegates unanimously elected Hurt as International President. Delegates gave Hurt a standing ovation.

In accepting the office of International President Hurt said, “I want to thank you for electing me as your president once again. I love being president of this International because I get to work with so many wonderful people. We all get up every morning and go to work. And I can say with all my heart, that I always try to do what is in the best interest of this membership. Please know that everything we do, we do to best serve you,” said Hurt.

“I want you to know that we take our jobs very seriously and I will do everything I can to be your best possible president. I will always work my hardest for you and this union,” he concluded.



FULL COVERAGE OF THE 38TH CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION CAN BE FOUND AT
WWW.BCTGM.ORG/2010CONVENTION



DELEGATES RE-ELECT DURKEE

Local 53 (Greater New York) Secretary-Treasurer Joyce Alston nominated David B. Durkee for the office International Secretary-Treasurer of the BCTGM International Union.

"David was born in Homer, N.Y., so we claim him in Region One. His family relocated to Evansville, Indiana, which he adopted as his home town. He found work as a young man at Lewis Brothers Bakery and began his baking career as a mixer, becoming the fourth generation in his family to become a baker.

"He quickly became a union activist and was elected as a business agent and financial secretary-treasurer of Local 280 in Evansville. He is a man of dedication to the union cause, loyalty to this union, and has served with untold hours of hard work from his earliest days as a local union officer.

"David has won the respect and trust of others because of his loyalty and dedication to the union leadership and to the mission of the International Union. He is a friend of every working man and woman in the BCTGM International Union. You can be assured of his commitment to serve all the members of every local union," said Alston.

Delegates unanimously elected Durkee as International Secretary-Treasurer of the BCTGM International Union and gave him a standing ovation.

In accepting the office, Durkee pledged to always work for "the best interests of this membership."

"I would like to thank our President Frank Hurt. I truly appreciate working with such a wonderful man," said Durkee.

He also thanked Executive Vice President Joe Thibodeau for his friendship and dedication to the BCTGM. "I'd also like to thank every single member of this union for all the work you do," said Durkee.

"I intend to continue to keep working longer and harder for you and this incredible Union," Durkee pledged.

DELEGATES RE-ELECT THIBODEAU

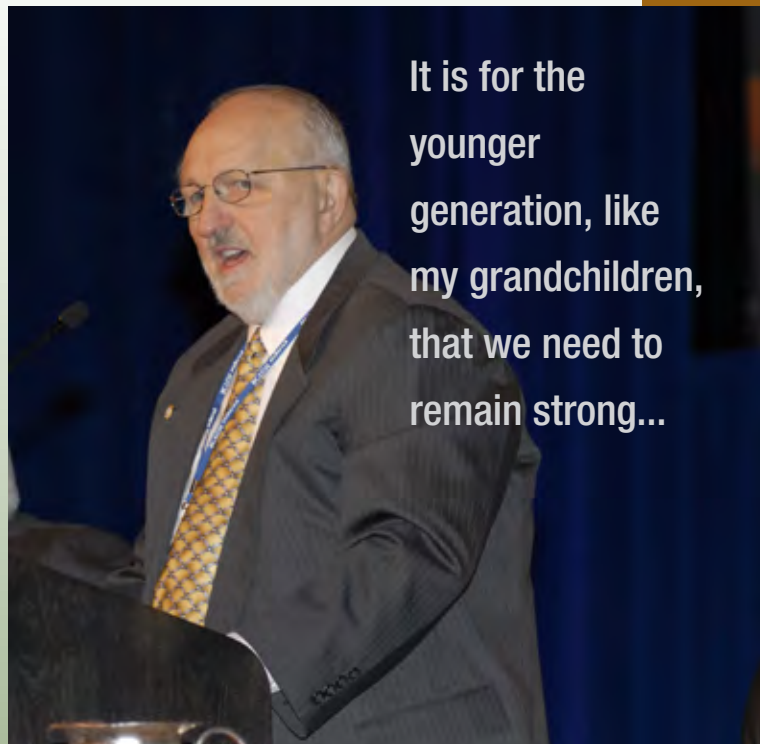
Local 102 (New York, N.Y.) President Ray Aquilino nominated Joe Thibodeau for the office of International Executive Vice President. Referring to Thibodeau as his mentor, Aquilino said Thibodeau symbolizes what the trade movement should be. "He is a man who taught me what it takes to be a good leader. Hard work and a willingness to fight the fight no matter what," Aquilino said.

Delegates unanimously elected Thibodeau as International Executive Vice President of the BCTGM International Union. Delegates gave him a standing ovation.

In accepting the office, Thibodeau said, "Thank you for re-electing me to another four years as your Executive Vice President. Thank you for allowing me to continue to do the work I believe in and the work that I love," he said.

"I believe that union organizing, that keeping the union strong by member participation, is just as vital to the workers' well-being now, as it was when I worked on my first organizing campaign," reflected Thibodeau.

"It is for the younger generation, like my grandchildren, that we need to remain strong so that they have the same opportunities. Thank you for continuing the good work of this union," concluded Thibodeau.



It is for the
younger
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remain strong...

DELEGATES ELECT VICE PRESIDENTS, GEB



DELEGATES ELECT INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Delegates to the Convention unanimously elected the following BCTGM International Vice Presidents:

Region 1: Art Montminy

Region 2: Bob Oakley

Region 3: Steve Bertelli

Region 4: Tony Johnson

Region 5: Sean Kelly

Region 6: Randy Roark

Grain Milling Sector:
Mike Konesko



GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

The following General Executive Board members were unanimously elected by Convention Delegates:

Region 1

Joyce Alston, Local 53
Tom Bingler, Local 36G

Region 2

Paul LaBuda, Local 19
Vester Newsome, Local 57

Region 3

Edward Burpo, Local 300
Bradford Schmidt, Local 218

Region 4

Johnny Jackson, Local 42
Richard Lewis, Local 111

Region 5

Ron Piercey, Local 264
Danny Murphy, Local 406

Region 6

Donna Scarano, Local 125
Doyle Townson, Local 31

Tobacco Sector

Butch Henley, 203T
Barry Jenkins, 317T

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AROUND THE CONVENTION FLOOR



PRESIDENT OBAMA SENDS GREETINGS

President of the United States Barack Obama sent a special letter to BCTGM International President Frank Hurt and delegates to the Convention.

"The BCTGM's commitment to improving the lives of working people and willingness to take on tough fights on behalf of a larger cause are well served by your leadership. Even though our country faces great challenges, you and your members meet at a time of hope and opportunity. We share a common goal of strengthening our Nation on behalf of working Americans, and the belief that ordinary people working together can do extraordinary things.

"I commend you and the members of the BCTGM for the work you do every day, and I wish you the best of luck moving forward," concluded President Obama.

> SPEAKERS EMPOWER DELEGATES

HOLT-BAKER ADDRESSES CONVENTION

On July 29, Arlene Holt-Baker, the Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO, discussed the vital importance of staying politically active leading up to the November elections.

"In just a little more than three months, Americans will vote on whether to continue our difficult but dramatic progress under President Obama, or back to the job-destroying, wage-cutting, home-foreclosing, union-busting policies of George W. Bush," Holt-Baker said.

"And the crucial question is: Will working people who live in fear of losing their jobs, their health care and even their home still muster the courage to march to their polling places to take a stand for their self-interest and to vote for their values?

"We have to tell our friends and family, our neighbors and co-workers, and each and every one of our union sisters and brothers the simple truth about what is at stake in this election," noted Holt-Baker.

"As we strive to persuade people who are working harder than ever but are more anxious and angry than ever, we need to be a constant, trusted presence in their communities, every day of the year and not only during the three months before in an election year," Holt-Baker stressed.

"We need politicians who will stand up for us and who will have the backbone to support policies that move our country forward and not backward. I have a feeling that the BCTGM is not going to let anybody turn you around," Holt-Baker concluded to a standing ovation.



ECONOMICS SIMPLIFIED

Larry Mishel, head of the Economic Policy Institute addressed the delegation on July 29. Mishel began his speech by outlining some of the economic problems facing working families. However, he noted that there was a bright side saying, "It is in our power to change this course, because these are man-made problems."



Mishel explained how the stimulus package helped avoid what could have been an even worse

economic disaster. He then used the analogy of a burning building to describe how the stimulus package was working but how certain interests are blocking its effectiveness and ability to be even more effective.

"So that's what Obama faces. He is trying to put out the fire and save the building. Yet the guys who started the fire and let it spread, are now criticizing the President for not putting the fire out. The reality is they want him to fail, and they want the building to burn down."

He also explained how the stimulus package affected BCTGM union members. "When the stimulus package spurred job growth, those new workers in the economy had money to buy products made by BCTGM members. That kept BCTGM members employed, and in turn we were able to buy products that kept other workers employed. That's how the system works," concluded Mishel.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

Ron Oswald, the General Secretary of the IUF, addressed the convention on July 29. The IUF is a global federation of more than 360 food, drink, agriculture, tobacco and hospitality unions in 125 countries around the world.

Reflecting on the diversity of the IUF membership, Oswald noted that the values and purpose of all the unions remain the same around the globe: to build a better life for our families.

"Beyond that basic purpose, our members are also engaged in a fight to ensure our workplaces, communities and societies are built on democracy, respect and decent work. In too many societies around the world, new generations grow up and simply don't know that if they have a decent life and decent standards of living," Oswald told delegates.

"Most importantly for the BCTGM and the IUF is that we increasingly face the same global employers. This reality makes what we do together across borders more relevant and more important than ever," he added.

"I can make you all one promise. Whatever the companies you take on might be, wherever and whenever we can bring some concrete value to your organizing efforts, you have my personal promise and a guarantee that we will mobilize everything we have in your support. We need to win and we need to organize many more members, and we need to do that together," concluded Oswald.



SOCIAL JUSTICE AND POLITICAL ACTION

Paul Lemmon, Assistant to AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, gave a rousing speech to the delegation on July 29.



"There is no other segment of America that fights for social justice like labor does." But Lemmon added it is imperative for organized labor to continue its organizing efforts because there is a direct link between

union density and voter turnout. "For every one percent drop in union density, there is a quarter percent drop in voter turnout. Which means you are all an essential element to ensuring democracy in America," he said.

Lemmon described what is at stake in the 2010 gubernatorial elections in November. He explained how imperative it was for BCTGM local leaders to call upon their memberships to rally behind Democratic candidates at all levels of government. "Your members believe in you. When you ask them to go knock on doors on a Saturday—they will. Because they believe in you—their local leaders," he said.

Lemmon commended the BCTGM for their efforts on behalf of Al Franken of Minnesota in the 2008 Senate race. Franken won the race, decided by a hand recount, by only 312 votes. "You made all the difference," said Lemmon.



FMCS AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Allison Beck, the Deputy Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS), addressed the convention on August 2. Beck detailed her 30 years of labor experience and explained how that experience enhanced her current position at the FMCS.

"I am passionate about collective bargaining and about encouraging real relationships between honest companies who want to share their success with their

U.S. ECONOMIC CRISIS EXPLAINED

Jack Marco, Chairman of the Marco Consulting group, spoke to the delegation on August 2 about the economic crash of 2008 and its aftermath. Using a Power Point presentation to help illustrate his points, Marco began by discussing the collapse of the U.S. housing market and how the flow of money has halted.

"Imagine a world where people can't get mortgages; people can't get car or student loans; companies can't raise funds for new factories or new products; companies have to stash more cash to cover payroll or operating costs; and, banks don't



want to lend to each other," Marco recalled.

Marco explained that among the unemployed, the number of long-term unemployed continued to

increase, reaching 6.1 million. In December 2009, 4 in 10 unemployed workers were jobless for 27 weeks or longer. He noted with optimism that the recovery has begun. "Economy is on a path to growth but the path is still uncertain," Marco said.

He concluded by encouraging delegates to continue their political efforts. "Do not let the party of NO get away with anything. You need to get out and vote NO at the ballot box to those who are against us—you can't afford to do anything else."

U.S. REP. TITUS ADDRESSES DELEGATES

U.S. Representative Dina Titus (D-Nevada) began her August 3 address by telling delegates that it is an exciting time to be in Congress, calling her job "fast and furious."

The Congresswoman noted, "I would not be here if not for organized labor. So thank you for the good work you do," she said.

Titus detailed her work on the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor and noted the important health and safety measures the committee works on.



She informed delegates that in May she toured the Hostess bakery in Henderson, Nevada with BCTGM International Representative Marco Mendoza and Local 37 President Danny Polanco. "I learned all there is to know when it comes to the production of bread. I saw the machines, the ovens and most importantly, I met the people who make the bread. I will never look at a slice of bread the same," said Titus.

She noted the importance of labor law reform and told delegates that she is a proud co-sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act.

Titus concluded her address to delegates with the famous quote by Mother Jones, "Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living!"

workers. We know that committed workers can help make these companies a success," Beck told delegates.

Beck outlined the FMCS core programs and noted that in 2009, FMCS mediators monitored nearly 14,000 negotiations, was actively involved in about 5,000 cases and reached a settlement in nearly 86 percent of cases.

"The FMCS has a wide variety programs and services that can help you in your collective bargaining relationships. You simply have to let us know how we can help you—and let us know how we can improve our services," concluded Beck.

RICHARD TRUMKA SPEAKS

FL-CIO President Richard Trumka began his address to the Convention on July 28 by commending the BCTGM for the work the union does at the bargaining table, in communities across this country and in the political process.

Focusing in on the day's theme, *Uniting to Win Legislative and Political Change*, Trumka detailed labor's efforts and battles in the political arena.

"Two years ago, working Americans had the courage to elect a president whose very victory gave new life to our nation's pledge to be 'one nation, with liberty and justice for all.' And over the last 18 months, President Obama has continued to make history," he said.

Trumka noted that such history includes fulfilling the six decade long struggle for health care coverage for all Americans; the most sweeping reforms of Wall Street since the Great Depression; extended unemployment compensation; and the enactment of a vital economic recovery plan.

"But not since Franklin D. Roosevelt told a trembling nation that we had nothing to fear but fear itself has a President taken office in such terrible times. Herbert Hoover left President Roosevelt the Great Depression. And George Bush left President Obama—and all Americans—the worst economy since those terrifying days," Trumka said.

"The Obama Administration, our friends in Congress and our labor movement are working overtime to overturn three decades of bad decisions—from Democrats as well as Republicans—that let our manufacturing base rust away; that

let corporate America bust many of our unions; that let Wall Street write its own rules and that left working Americans with a generation of wage stagnation," said Trumka.

"Some of you know a little something about baking pies. So if you think of the American economy as a gigantic pie, then the pieces of the pie that Americans are receiving are becoming smaller and more unequal than ever," he added.



"The gap between the rich and the rest of us has grown greater than at any time since 1929—which was when the Great Depression began. With the worst inequality in 80 years; with unemployment around 10 percent; and with Washington paralyzed by Republican filibusters and catering to corporate America," said Trumka.

"It is no wonder that so many Americans—including so many union members—are so angry at our nation's leaders. We need to focus that anger at those who deserve it. We need to tell our friends, our family, our neighbors and coworkers: we know you're angry, we know you're disappointed and we know we haven't achieved everything we worked for. Let's be forceful with President Obama and his cleanup crew," Trumka noted.

He advised the delegates to make no mistake about the November elections: "If you're a union member, a working woman, or a member of a minority that has

been overlooked, underpaid and locked out...then our adversaries don't want to win your vote. They just want you to stay home and sit this election out," he said.

"It is up to us to mobilize the working Americans who have the most to lose from going backwards and the most to gain from moving forwards. We have just three months and we've got to get informed, involved and we've got to get real," he said.

Trumka reminded delegates of the progress of the Obama Administration and urged them to help keep it going by keeping worker allies in Congress. "For us, it's a choice between the present and the past; between the wrecking crew and the cleanup crew," he said.

"If you want an America where hard work is rewarded, then work for it—vote for it. If you want an America where we make things, then work for it—vote for it. If you want an America with a strong and growing middle class, then work for it and vote for it. If you want an America where we understand that good public schools and college opportunities are our moral responsibility to our children and grandchildren, and that Social Security and Medicare are our solemn responsibility to our parents and grandparents; then work for it and vote for it.

"And if you believe the American dream is for everyone willing to work for it, not just for a privileged few but for all of us, then work for it and vote for it. Sisters and brothers, we got America moving forward in the election two years ago. Let's do it again in 2010. Work together. Vote together. Stand together. Because when we do, no one can stand in our way," concluded Trumka.

DELEGATE ACTION SETS BCTGM'S FOUR-YEAR AGENDA

A total of 361 delegates, representing 125 Local Unions attended the 38th Constitutional Convention, the union's highest decision-making body. Delegates helped chart the BCTGM's course for the next four years.

Each of the Local Unions represented at the Convention, as well as the International General Executive Board, was given an opportunity to submit resolutions for consideration by delegates at the Convention.

There were 39 resolutions, which include 14 from Local Unions, that were presented to Convention delegates. Prior to the Convention, the Committee on Committees assigned each resolution to a specific committee. In



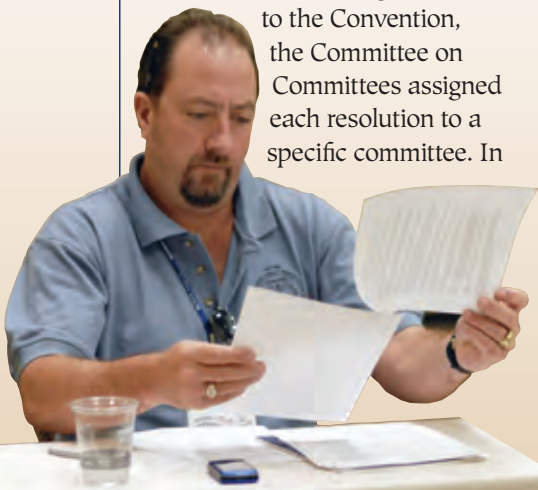
addition to the Committee on Committees, other Convention committees included the Constitution, Finance, Organizing, Political Action, and Resolutions. The committees were made up of local union delegates and advised by an International Vice President.

Committee meetings were held throughout the course of the week while the Convention was in recess. During these working sessions, each resolution was thoroughly discussed and debated. Once each group reached a consensus on their assigned resolutions, a report was submitted to the Convention body, with a recommendation for action. Delegates were then given the opportunity to debate the committee recommendation and vote for



or against the adoption of each resolution. In addition to setting the agenda for the next four years, this procedure provides the membership with a voice in the policy-making process of the International Union.

The resolutions presented to the delegates covered such topics as organizing, jobs, global solidarity, political action, trade, retirement security, health and safety and collective bargaining. Additionally, there were several resolutions concerning changes to the BCTGM International Constitution.





COMMITTEES



COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES



COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS



COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL ACTION

OF THE BCTGM 38TH CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION



COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZING



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE



COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION

ORGANIZE!

"Every one of you should understand that organizing is the lifeblood of the labor movement. Each one of us must understand how vital organizing is to our union, the future of the labor movement and the prosperity of every working family in North America," BCTGM International President Frank Hurt told delegates to the 38th Constitutional Convention of the BCTGM International Union.



Pictured here are BCTGM organizers from 63 local unions who were honored at the Convention for their organizing efforts.